

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

East Germany

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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TOPIC: Military Information from Bernau

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EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

DATE OF CONTENT 3 to 9 March 1954

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1

DATE PREPARED 2 April 1954

REFERENCES

632963

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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[REDACTED] 1. At 1:10 p.m. on 3 March 1954, a convoy of about 30 trucks [REDACTED] moved toward Wandlitz from the direction of Bernau. Six of the trucks towed a 57-mm AT gun each, 12 trucks carried troops and about 12 trucks equipment. The convoy included a field kitchen. It came from the direction of the Luftnachrichten Kasernen (424). Informant confirmed that a large column had left the installation at about 4 p.m. On the evening of the same day, the northern and southern quarters of the installation were only about 25 percent lighted. The installation seemed to be vacant.

25X1 2. At 2:45 p.m., more columns came from the direction of Bernau and proceeded toward Schoenow-Schoenwalde. Observed were about 50 trucks, presumably loaded with ammunition, many track-laying vehicles which towed a 100-mm AT gun each, and 4 trucks with steaming field kitchens.

25X1 [REDACTED] All troops observed wore red-bordered black epaulettes with artillery insignia.

25X1 [REDACTED] On the evening of the same day, the clothing depot was about 50 percent lighted. On the morning of 4 March, more than 25 trucks were counted in front of two garages. Two other garages stood empty. In the afternoon on 5 March, about 60 trucks with 60 x 100-mm AT guns were lined up along the fence west of the motor vehicle garages. At the same time, three garages stood empty, while 22 trucks and 4 guns were parked in front of another garage.

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25X1 3. At 4:30 p.m. on 4 March, 12 T-34 tanks and about 20 trucks [REDACTED] were loaded at Bernau railroad station. [REDACTED] The loading ramp was cordoned off by sentries, contrary to previous practice. At about the same time on 5 March, 8 armored scout cars, several armored personnel carriers and about 15 trucks [REDACTED] In the afternoon on 6 March, troops were loaded onto boxcars. No details could be learned. All shipments were dispatched toward Eberswalde.

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25X1 4. The following loadings were made at Bernau freight station on 6 March: 30 trucks [REDACTED]

25X1 12 AT guns and about 15 sedans stood near the station ready to be loaded. The guns had an estimated caliber of 76.2-mm. The shipments were not observed to depart.

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5. In the afternoon on 5 March, most of the troops stationed in clothing depot No I (4244), Bernau, were at the installation. About 22 x 100-mm AT guns, 10 x 57-mm AT guns, 25 prime movers and 30 to 40 trucks were parked in the yard. About 200 to 300 troops engaged in maintenance work there. On 9 March, the guns and vehicles were again parked in the garages. About 20 to 30 trucks were not at the installation. No training activity was noticed.

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6. [redacted] the impression that the bulk of the troops from the Luftnachrichten Kaserne (4241) were again at the installation on 5 March. Observed were 3 T-34/85 tanks [redacted] On 7 and 9 March, each three T-34/85 tanks moved to the training area. On 9 March, the installation quartered an estimated 2,500 troops. Soldiers observed wore red-bordered black epaulets including some with artillery insignia and, very few, with tank insignia.

7. Between 5 and 9 March, the former SS Briefstaubenstation (pigeon station) (4243) was still occupied by about 400 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets including some with artillery insignia. It could not be determined whether the troops moved out for unit exercises. Four 76.2-mm AA guns were still emplaced at the installation.

1. [redacted] Comment. According to previous information [redacted] of paragraphs 5 through 7, it was inferred that troops stationed in Bernau conducted exercises on the garrison training grounds in the area of Schoenow in late February and early March. [redacted] The march direction of the units of the 6th Gds Mech Div from the Luftnachrichten Kaserne on 3 March and of the 71st Light Arty Brig (US) from clothing depot No I supports the conclusion that these exercises were continued. According to information in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the present report, the exercises lasted until the afternoon of 5 March [redacted] the latest. The four sources did not observe the return of the troops, however.

2. [redacted] Comment. According to information [redacted] 12 tanks and motor vehicles of the 34th Tank Eng Bn of the 6th Gds Mech Div were loaded in the afternoon on 4 March, presumably for shipment to the Templin training grounds. [redacted] According to the reference report, two trains with elements of the 120th (?) AAA Regt of the division from the SS Briefstaubenstation were loaded on 5 March, probably for shipment to Jüterbog. [redacted] on rail movements indicated that two trains were dispatched from Bernau to Neustrelitz on 6 March. According to other observations, the trains carried elements of the 71st Light Arty Brig (US). The latter loadings were partially confirmed by paragraphs 3 and 4. It was reported for the first time, however, that armored scout cars and armored personnel carriers were loaded on 5 March. It is possible that these vehicles also moved to Templin as did the tanks of the 34th Tank Eng Bn.

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